



Discover Nature - Fishing

Research shows one of the biggest obstacles to trying a new activity is lack of knowledge. The Missouri Department of Conservation's new Discover Nature - Fishing program aims to help families and youths overcome that obstacle by empowering them with the knowledge they need to discover this enjoyable, lifelong activity.

Discover Nature - Fishing rolls out in the St. Louis area in May. This program is designed to get people outdoors and trying something new - fishing. Four progressive lessons move newcomers through all the basics of the sport and onto a path of fishing independence.

The main focus of Discover Nature - Fishing is children 7 - 15 years of age, but it also emphasizes family involvement and encourages parents and guardians with youths 16 and over to participate. All youths must be accompanied by an adult. Adults new to fishing have the opportunity to learn the basics right alongside their children.

The two-hour classes are free and fishing gear is provided. After a classroom session taught by trained Discover Nature - Fishing volunteers, participants spend an hour or more fishing, putting what they've learned into practice. The four classes include:

- Equipment, Casting, and Proper Fish Handling
- How to Tie a Knot and Bait a Hook
- Five Common Missouri Fish: Anatomy, Habitat, and Life Cycle
- Fishing with Lures and Fishing Regulations

Discover Nature - Fishing programs are held at three locations; Forest Park, August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area, and Suson Park.



To find a list of program dates and times please visit the Discover Nature - Fishing website at <http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/discover-nature-programs/discover-nature-fishing>. To register for a Discover Nature - Fishing program call 636-441-4554. To find out more information about Discover Nature - Fishing or to become a Discover Nature - Fishing volunteer, contact Malcolm Royse at Malcolm.Royse@mdc.mo.gov, or call 636-441-4554 ext. 4140.

BY: Denise Otto, fisheries management biologist



Don't miss Wetlands for Kids, Saturday, April 4, at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. See page 7 for information.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

Wednesday: 11 a.m.–7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Discover Nature – Shotgun Care and Cleaning

April 7 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Even new firearms from the store must be cleaned and properly lubricated before being shot or going hunting. Any shotgun - family heirloom, expensive sporting or competition gun, or hard-working basic shooter - needs proper care and attention to keep it working and prevent worn or damaged parts. Let our experts help you with proper techniques to maintain your firearm. All firearms and equipment will be provided. No personal shotguns allowed. (Reservations begin March 7.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

April 12 • Sunday • 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better shooter. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from our staff. Participants must bring their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is for experienced handgun shooters and not appropriate for beginners or novices. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Discover Nature Families – Beginning Archery

April 21 • Tuesday • 6 – 7:30 p.m.

(Families, ages fourth grade and up)

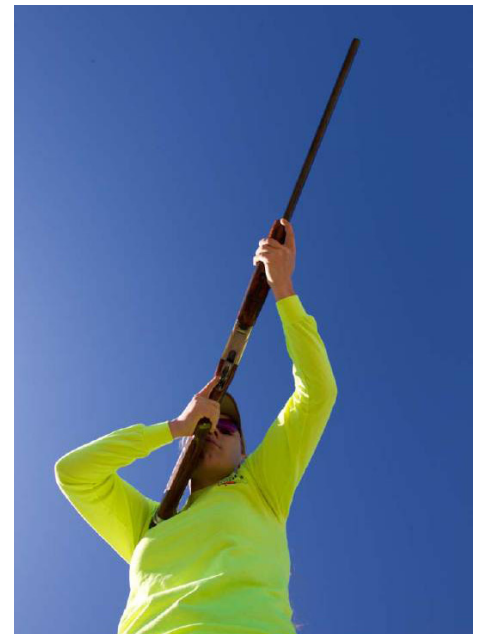
Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family, fourth grade and up. All equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin March 21.)

Discover Nature – Beginning Youth .22 Rifle

April 25 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who are **first-time** rifle shooters are invited to participate in this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin March 25.)



Discover Nature - Beginning Shotgun

April 27 • Monday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 18 and up)

This is an introductory program for beginning shooters who want to learn the correct way to get started in shotgun sports. We will discuss appropriate shotguns, correct fit, gauge and ammunition selection, proper stance, mount, movement, and vision. All participants will have an opportunity to break some clay targets after the classroom portion of the program. (Reservations begin March 27.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center is closed for a total renovation.

Two new webcams allow viewers to monitor progress of the new Busch Shooting Range

MDC's Design and Development Division has installed two webcams on the construction site and our web team has created a link so you can follow new developments as they unfold. Just go to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/30020>.

The easy-to-navigate control panel allows viewers to choose between the two cameras, zoom in and scroll around the image, enlarge to fill your screen, and even change the date and time of the images displayed. There's also a "time lapse" feature that lets you play an animated view showing progression of the site over time.

Discover Nature - Basic Archery

April 11 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this rewarding outdoor activity. We cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important techniques. Children ages 10 – 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the archery range. (Reservations begin March 9.)

Handgun Care and Cleaning

April 15 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

Our experts will teach what it takes to maintain your firearms in top working condition. We will cover equipment and materials needed, how to clean different actions, how to store your firearms, and more. Meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. (Reservations begin March 16.)

Discover Nature - Map and Compass

April 18 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Learn how to properly read maps and use a compass. Meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom and then proceed outside to see if you can find some locations without the use of today's modern devices. Dress for the weather. Children ages 11 – 15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 18.)

Discover Nature - Basic Shotgun

April 27 • Monday • 6 – 8 p.m. • April 28 • Tuesday • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

The clinic will be held on Monday in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom where we will go over safety, actions, choosing a shotgun, chokes, stance, and much more. Tuesday we will head out for some live fire practice. You must attend the clinic to participate in the live fire session. Children ages 12 – 15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 30.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Discover Nature Girls Camp

The Missouri Department of Conservation will be offering its fourth annual Discover Nature Girls Camp. It is a free three-day, two-night girls camp aimed at introducing young ladies ages 11–15 to different outdoors skills. The camp will be held July 21, 22, and 23 in Lincoln County at Cuivre River State Park.

Campers spend three fun-filled days learning by participating in a "hands on" hunter education class. They participate in a variety of outdoor skills such as canoeing, geocaching and fishing. The camp is limited to 60 girls between the ages of 11–15. Applications must be received by May 8, 2015.

To apply for Discover Nature Girls Camp, please contact the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554 to request an application form.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

How Does Nature Clean Up? How Can We Help?

April 7 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon
or 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 7 – 12)

By design, nature cleans up after itself. Examples are water purification, scavenging dead plants and animals, and soil fertilization. In this program, we will investigate some creatures responsible for these beneficial tasks. We will also discuss ways to mimic nature in our own conservation efforts. Supplies will be available to build your own miniature worm composting bin. We will also go outside, so dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 24.)

Earth Day at the Nature Center

April 11 • Saturday •

Peanut says “No MOre Trash!”

9 – 10:30 a.m.

(Families)

Peanut the turtle is a female red-eared slider who is famous for her figure. Her shape is the result of litter – a plastic six pack ring that she crawled through and got stuck in as a young turtle. After being rescued in 1993, she has become the mascot for the “No MOre Trash” campaign. Peanut lives at Powder Valley and continues to spread the word about littering. Meet Peanut, learn about litter, and pick up litter along the trail. Please dress for the weather and be prepared to hike the long, hilly loop of the Hickory Ridge Trail (1 1/5 miles). We will provide gloves, bags, and trash grabber tools. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Take the Litter Pledge

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Take the Litter Pledge and help keep Missouri litter-free. We will have information on recycling, recycle crafts, and more. Be sure to pick up your native tree seedling. (No reservations required.)

Roadside Cleanup

12:30 – 2 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Join us in a cleanup along Cragwold Road as part of Earth Day and Missouri’s No MOre Trash! Bash. Please dress for the weather. Gloves, bags, and trash grabber tools will be provided. Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 28.)

Boy Scout Discovery Table: Flowers and Trees

April 11 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

This month the spotlight is on the flowers and trees of Missouri. This self-led program will include tree and flower identification, a scavenger hunt, poison ivy identification, and leaf rubbings. Discovery Tables are open to Boy Scout groups and the general public. (No reservations necessary)

Animal Babies

April 14 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 and up)

This is a good time of year to celebrate furry little mammal babies. Aren’t they cute? They wake up, dash around, leap and jump, play hard with each other, and then cuddle up and fall asleep again. While their parents feed, protect and teach them, the babies are learning about the world around them. Come help us celebrate animal babies. (Reservations begin March 28.)

You and Me Under the Canopy

April 21 • Tuesday • 10 – 11 a.m.

(Ages birth – 8)

Meet in the nature center lobby for a “nature” adventure. Dress for the weather because we will hike to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. Siblings are welcome! (In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes.) (Reservation begin April 7.)

Amphibian Night at Forest 44

Apr 24 • Friday • 7:30 – 10 p.m.

(All ages)

Join us as MDC Herpetologist Jeff Briggler teaches about native amphibians and takes us on an exploratory hike. Learn to identify different species and calls before venturing out to the ponds of Forest 44. Meet at Jay Henges Shooting Range Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. Dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that can get muddy. (Reservations begin April 10.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Who Howled?

April 17 • Friday • 7 - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Howls in the night, tracks in the mud... could it be a wolf? Missouri has far more coyotes and foxes, but some wolves have been confirmed in Missouri, generally when mistaken for a coyote during hunting season. Researchers continue to learn more about the large predators of Missouri, and how to avoid conflicts with them. Tom Meister, MDC Wildlife Damage Biologist, Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation, and Ashley Rearden, Director of Education with the Endangered Wolf Center will share information on the latest research and findings. (Reservations begin immediately.)



Hallway Exhibit

Photography of Dan and Margy Terpstra

Since 1996, Dan and Margy Terpstra have worked together to remove invasive plants and restore their Kirkwood half-acre property with beautiful Missouri natives. Their effort has been a labor of love with amazing rewards. It is now beneficial habitat, filled with abundant flora and fauna - their own wildlife sanctuary named 'ShadyOaks'. They invite you to enjoy and perhaps be inspired by the diversity of native flowering plants, hummingbirds, songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife that they have photographed in their suburban oasis. For a sneak preview, visit their website and blog: <http://hummerhavenunltd.com>

Powder Valley Conservation Day Camp Application

June 16 • Tuesday – June 19 • Friday • 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

and June 20 • Saturday • 9 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 – 13)

Conservation Day Camp is four fun-filled days of conservation programs ranging from archery and fishing to dissecting owl pellets. On Saturday, parents/legal guardians will be asked to attend camp from 9–11:30 a.m. to learn about Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife from their child!

Conservation Day Camp is limited to 30 campers. Applications will be accepted through April 18, 2015. Participants will be chosen by a lottery drawing and will be notified via phone by April 24, 2015. Parents will receive a complete schedule of events and permission forms prior to the beginning of camp. Daily attendance is expected and parent/legal guardian participation on Saturday is strongly encouraged.

One family per application. Thank you.
Please complete this form and return to:

**Powder Valley Conservation
Nature Center
Conservation Day Camp
11715 Cragwold Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

T-SHIRT SIZE CHART

SIZE	S	M	L	XL
YOUTH	6-8	10-12	14-16	18-20
WOMEN	4-6	8-10	12-14	16-18
MEN	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48

Child's Name	Age	Shirt Size

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Address

Cell/Daytime Phone

Home Phone

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

It's Not Too Late to Plant Natives

April 11 • Saturday • 9 – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Earth Day is coming soon, it's still not too late! Native plants, adapted to our climate and soils, benefit us and the environment by attracting birds, bees, butterflies, and other colorful wildlife. We'll give you some tips and show you where to find nurseries and sales of ready-to-plant native plants, trees, and shrubs. Then all you have to do is discover nature by enhancing your own back yard! (Registration runs March 25 thru April 8.)

Golden Hour Photo Op at the Confluence

April 19 • Sunday • 5:45 – 7:30 a.m.

(Ages 15 and up)

Take advantage of the "golden hour" of dawn to discover nature at the Confluence. We'll walk the River's Edge Trail in the fresh spring greenery, listen for the drumming of woodpeckers and the gobbling of turkeys, and watch for

migrating waterfowl and song birds as the morning sun rises. Bring your camera so you can share some of your photos with us. We'd like to display them in the Visitor Center. Dress for the weather and meet at the front gate. (Reservations run April 5 thru 17.)

Columbia Bottom Geocache/Clean Up

April 25 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – noon

(All Ages)

Celebrate Earth Day by joining the Saint Louis Area Geocaching Association (SLAGA) for a CITO event. CITO stands for Cache In, Trash Out. It is a way for people who geocache to help their communities and natural areas by picking up litter. You do not need to be a member of SLAGA or a geocacher to participate. You can learn all about this fun outdoor hobby while you are here. All you need is a willingness to help Mother Earth. We will provide the equipment. Meet at Parking Lot O, canoe/kayak access area, N 38° 47.750 W 090° 08.020. (No reservations necessary.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Tree Seedling Giveaway at St. Louis Earth Day

April 26 • Sunday • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

(All ages)

Want to discover nature throughout the year? Plant a tree! Visit the Missouri Department of Conservation at the 26th annual St. Louis Earth Day celebration on the Muny grounds in Forest Park. Each household gets a free tree seedling. This year our seedling giveaway includes chokeberry and flowering dogwood. Each is beautiful in its own way and both attract birds. For information and directions go to [St. Louis Earth Day](#). (No reservations required.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Wetlands for Kids

April 4 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(All ages)

Learn about wetlands and the critters that call them home at Wetlands for Kids. See live birds of prey, create wetland artwork, explore a beaver lodge, practice air rifle and archery skills, view live snakes and turtles, and watch retriever dogs in action. Visit more than 15 stations to learn about nature. (No reservations necessary.)



*Discover nature at
Wetlands for Kids.*

Morel Mushroom Hunting for Beginners

April 1 • Wednesday • 1 – 2 p.m. **or**
6 – 7 p.m.

(Adults)

Learn about one of the most delicious mushrooms in Missouri – the morel. This program will be conducted in two parts. In the classroom, we'll learn how to identify, locate, and collect morels. During the outdoor foray, you'll be able to dedicate your time to hunting for your prize. Please sign up for one classroom session. The foray will be scheduled during the classroom session for a weekend in April, depending on when mushroom season begins. Effort=Moderate for off-trail hiking during the foray. (Reservations begin March 16.)

Amphibian Night Hike

April 11 • Saturday • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

(Adults)

April 18 • Saturday • 7 – 9:30 p.m.

(Families)

Attend a "marsh concert" presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri. Hike the levees at Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area and learn to identify frogs and toads by their calls while they survive in the marsh habitat. Effort = Mild, for a two mile, night hike on flat, gravel top levees. (Reservations begin March 27.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Animal Autographs

April 11 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

April showers leave behind a muddy mess, and the signatures animals leave in the mud are ones we can interpret. Learn how to identify and distinguish between different tracks and put that knowledge to use as we venture outside to find signs of animals. (Reservations begin March 27.)

Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID and Flyways

April 25 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Learn to identify mounted and live birds and figure out where migration highways are in the sky. This activity meets several Boy Scout requirements. (No reservations necessary. Attend at any point during the four-hour period.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Morel Mushroom Hunting for Beginners

April 4 • Saturday • 1 – 2 p.m.
or 3 – 4 p.m.

(Adults)

Learn about one of the most delicious mushrooms in Missouri – the morel. This program will be conducted in two parts. In the classroom at Rockwoods Reservation, we'll learn how to identify, locate, and properly collect morels. During the outdoors foray, held at August A. Busch Conservation Area, you'll dedicate your time to hunting for your prize. Please sign up for one classroom session. During the classroom session, the foray will be scheduled for a weekend in April, depending on when mushroom season begins. (Reservations begin March 16.)

Nature Journaling Group – Pond Life Above and Below the Water

April 8 • Wednesday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(Adults)

Doodle, sketch, and have fun at a forest pond in spring. The nature journaling series continues as we discover pond life and what it tells us about the health of the ecosystem. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 25.)

Spring on the Trail Among the Trees

April 11 • Saturday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(All ages)

Let's spend a beautiful spring afternoon hiking the Trail Among the Trees. We'll look for native wildflowers blooming amid the evidence of man's presence at Rockwoods for over 100 years. Effort = Moderate, for 1.5 mile hike on unpaved surface with some hills and stairs. (Reservations begin March 27.)



Goodness Snakes Alive

April 17 • Friday • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 4 – 6)

Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear, and eat? Learn the answers to these questions and lots more. You will observe and even touch live snakes if you want. We will also take a short hike to see if we can find any snakes in the wild. (Reservations begin April 3.)

Awesome Snakes and Lizards

April 18 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

Discover many important facts about the snakes and lizards that live in Missouri. Observe and even touch live snakes. Be prepared to take a short hike to see if we can observe any snakes or lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin April 3.)

Soap Making the Old Fashioned Way

April 18 • Saturday • 2 – 4 p.m.

(Adults)

Did you ever wonder how soap was originally discovered and made? Learn the basics of making soap, the role wildlife played in the historic process, and how it differs today. Try your hand at making different soaps, including insect-repellant bars. (Reservations begin April 6.)